

Shakespeare, Summer Nights ... and the PRO850 from HME

An Interview with Rick Molina, product manager for the professional audio division, HM Electronics, Inc. (HME) and Paul Peterson, sound director, Old Globe Theater.

RM: Why did the nationally renowned Old Globe Theatre in San Diego turn to HME for their stage crew communication system when faced with the daunting task of coordinating a Bi-National Production of "Romeo y Julieta?"

PP: The reason that we went with HME for this production was that we almost had zero tech time to rehearse this show, the expectations were going to be high, and we had situations where we would be moving to a different stage each day. The stages were so wide spread that there was absolutely no way we could do this with wired communications. We were going to have people walking all over these parks trying to get the show going."

RM: The Old Globe has had two PRO850 Wireless Intercom Systems in use for several years at its main theatre. What about the system have you come to rely upon?

PP: What we found about the PRO850 is that it is so solid and reliable that it gives the stage managers peace-of-mind knowing that they're not going to lose communication at a critical moment. At a company like the Old Globe, where the expectation of the production values are so high, and being one of the top theatres in the country, we have certain standards that we have to live up to and having an unbreakable chain of communication is something that is expected. It's not a luxury, it is something that we have to have.

RM: What does your audio group like most about the PRO850?

PP: We like the feature set and how easy it is to customize with either the Palm interface or the computer using the RS-232 interface. The fact that we can change things so quickly and easily if we have a problem, say if we get a frequency that is encroached upon, it's easy to change. What's more important for us, we do a lot of Broadway shows and for these shows, we have to beef up our communications package. There are so many people coming out to work on these shows from New York and we hire so many extra people from San Diego, we simply need to go from eight to maybe twenty-four channels of communication back stage. The PRO850s are so easily programmable and versatile that we can simply slide them right into and program around whatever package comes out from New York and we know that they're going to work."

RM: What kind of feedback have you received from your stage crew ?

PP: After we had the HME system for a week or two, one of the crew members sent a comment to the Old Globe's weekly news letter thanking the Sound Department and HME for providing us with the "Holy Grail" of communication systems.

RM: Would you recommend the DX200 to a colleague or friend?

Shakespeare, Summer Nights ... and the PRO850 from HME, Page 2

PP: Absolutely. I would tell them that moving over to HME would provide them with not only a cutting edge communication system but it's also something that they can count on to be rock solid and not have to worry about during the performance.

For more information, call HME at 800/848-4468 or visit www.hme.com.

Founded in 1971, HME is an innovative technology company focused on enhancing productivity and customer service for the quick service restaurant, pro audio and surveillance markets. HME's groundbreaking innovations, passion for excellence, and commitment to service have earned the distinction of being the technology leader in QSR industry. A technology pioneer - the first to develop the wireless headset for the drive-thru and the intercom system for the pro audio industry - HME delivers the most comprehensive and customer-focused solutions to many businesses worldwide

HME Contacts:

Angie Pietrolungo
Phone: (858) 535-6054
Fax: (858) 535-6140
e-mail: apietrolungo@hme.com

Tuyet Vu
Phone: (858) 646-8818
Fax: (858) 535-6140
e-mail: tvu@hme.com